



## NORTH CAROLINA ARMY RETIREE COUNCIL

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29 December 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Minutes of the North Carolina Army Retiree Council Meeting  
11 December 2004.

1. The quarterly meeting of the North Carolina Army Retiree Council (NCARC) was called to order by Co-Chairman SGM(R) Law at 0930 hours 11 December 2004 at the Ft. Bragg Officers' Club.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

COL(R) Don Latella, Co-Chairman  
SGM(R) Larry Law, Co-Chairman  
COL(R) David F. Borresen  
COL(R) Clifford M. Deal (III)  
COL(R) Donald A. Doll Jr. (II)  
COL(R) George F. Heberer (IV)  
COL(R) William F. Rawley Sr. (VI)  
LTC(R) Thomas E. Parsons (VIII)  
CW4(R) James E. Flanders  
CSM(R) Rodney C. Deese (III)  
SGM(R) Frank M. Foronda (VII)  
1SG(R) Robert H. Ward (II)  
MSG(R) Moses L. Best  
SFC(R) Richard A. Clemmons (IV)  
SFC(R) William E. Schone (VI)  
SSG(R) Frances Crawford (V)  
Mr. John Bell - IRSO  
( ) indicates regional area

### OTHERS PRESENT

COL Al Aycock, Garrison Commander  
Ms. Nan Sanders, Installation AG  
\*\*Mr. Scott Dorney, Military Business Center  
  
Ronald Early, Fayetteville  
  
\*\* Guest Speaker

2. Mr. Bell gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. SGM(R) Law recognized guests/visitors and reviewed the material in the packet. He also welcomed 1SG(R) Ward new co-chair for Region II.

4. COL Aycock: reported a team of Army Community of Excellence are at Ft. Bragg which is in the top 5 of 180 posts (second time in a row) and is being considered for the award of Community of Excellence. First place is worth \$1 million. The Military Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and AUSA's Braxton-Bragg Chapter are working together on project "Companies Adopting Companies". A civilian company adopts an Army company deployed overseas. He attended a meeting of the Moore County Chamber of Commerce's 'Military Appreciation Night' where they donated a truck load of personal type items, books etc. for the deployed troops. Soldier Support Center still undergoing refurbishing. One goal is to have all retiree activities centrally located, and have VA Office and RSO close together and close to the entrance. Money on Ft. Bragg will be tight for the next quarter, but things are still on track. MWR activities had a \$3 million profit last year even though several thousand of troops were deployed. Managers of the various activities did a remarkable job. MG Virgil L. Packett is the new Deputy Commanding General and will be the 'public face' while LTG Vines and the Corps Headquarters are deployed. NC has passed legislation allowing dependents (children or spouse) of military stationed at installations in NC to pay in-state tuition fees at the state institutions. The biggest factor is that so long as the student initially enrolled while the service member was stationed in NC the in-state tuition rates will carry through even if the service member is transferred outside the NC. The state has set aside \$32 million to protect military bases. In this area the state is looking to buy land adjacent to Ft. Bragg and establish the first State Park in Cumberland County. The 30<sup>th</sup> Heavy Brigade, NC National Guard, has started to re-deploy and will be demobilized here at Ft. Bragg. The main body of the Corps Headquarters will probably deploy in January. He gave an update on the security procedures at the access control points to Ft. Bragg. The screening of Driver License has proved its worth. Example is that personnel who have had driving privileges revoked on post, or those who have been banned from post were identified through the info on the license. This procedure is being tested at some of the access points and will eventually be put into effect at all points. Additionally, even though your vehicle may have a valid decal, you may be selected for a vehicle inspection. He also commented on the perimeter fencing of Ft. Bragg and the by-pass road around post coming from Fayetteville toward Spring Lake. In answer to a question about reports of soldiers on welfare – is it true? -- if so what's being done about it? COL Aycock stated that he did not have any stats on this, but that if there are soldiers on welfare it's because they are in the same economic category as civilians (size of family to income) and would be eligible to apply for available programs. He outlined some of the programs/activities available to soldiers: AER now operates with the Company Commander having authority to approve an emergency \$500 loan in less than one day. The Ft. Bragg Federal Credit Union just presented a check for \$50K to the Ft. Bragg Area Community Foundation (non-profit organization governed by volunteers, mostly spouses of active duty soldiers, and it picks up when AER, ACS or Social Services can not assist the financial emergency of the soldier).

ACS has recently established the 'Airborne Attic' which is a source of furniture and appliances made available for soldiers E4 and below. Soldiers can borrow these major items and are asked to bring the items back when no longer needed for someone else to use. The unit commander or First Sergeant can verify that the soldier has the need in order for the soldier to pick up items. He commented that the PX has been extremely generous in helping soldiers and families in need by furnishing Gift Coupons etc.

5. Ms. Sanders reported that COL McAlister and the majority of the 18<sup>th</sup> Soldier Support Group has deployed. She stated that even though the demobilization activities will be underway at the Soldier Support Center, it would not preclude others in need of services from being cared for. Please try and get the word out reference training holidays. Many of our activities are being handled by contract workers and these folks are generally not working on training holidays. She stated that she needs to know of issues/problems before she can do anything to remedy the problem.

6. Ms. Gordon passed out holidays calendar schedule of store hours etc. There will be a complimentary wine tasting held at the South Post, a coat and tie invitation event -- a first!! She gave an update on recently opened PX food activities. Renovations are underway at the North Post Food Court (relocation of rest rooms etc.). A Firestone Car Care Center will be built at the corner of Butner and Chute near the North Post. South Post now has a jewelry counter. Self check-outs are being installed at both PXs, should be in by next summer. She reported that her remarks during the welcome briefing for newly arrived soldiers (10 times a month) she justifies 'why shop at the PX?' -- National Market Basket Surveys taken around the country show a saving of 21.8% by shopping at the PX. She has a person dedicated to conduct regular local surveys of over 600 items to ensure that the PX is competitive with local establishments. The PX will match lower prices. PXs generate earnings for MWR and also gives about 30% back to Exchange System for renovations and opening/building of new facilities. She invited and encouraged retirees to attend the PX Advisory Council 15 Feb at South Post. Gasoline prices at PX stations. Contrary to the BIG MYTH -- an act of Congress requires that PX stations pay both federal and state tax on motor fuel. She does conduct surveys of local stations on the economy (a minimum of 5) at least twice a week and matches the lowest one. Once a price is set for the day -- it remains at the price throughout that day, they will not be changed during a business day - to change the price during the day would require a shut down for a period of time to reset computer. The volume of traffic at the pumps just would not tolerate this. Reference slow pumps: she stated that the volume at the stations is extremely high and that filters do get clogged -- where most civilian station change filters monthly -- stations on post change filters 3 times monthly to help alleviate this problem. Mr. Bell thanked Ms. Gordon for the support that the PX rendered during RAD. She conducted drawings for several door prizes (Gift Cards).

7. Mr. Scott Dorney, Executive Director North Carolina Military Business Center. The idea for such an organization came from this area. The Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations were instrumental in developing its formation. The idea was presented to local state legislators for funding. State Senator Tony Rand not only pushed for initial funded of close to \$2 million, but also determined that such an organization would have impact throughout the state. The headquarters was established in Fayetteville with Fayetteville Technical Community College as host. The state community college network will be the conduit for the organization. He gave an overview of the aims and objectives (fact sheet attached). He stated that the military is the major agent for economic development in NC. The impact of the military in NC every year is \$18 billion. NC is the fourth largest military presence in the US, and is one of the biggest in the nation in DoD procurement. Too many of these procurement contracts go to out of town/state businesses – the main objective is to get more of these contracts to local/state businesses. He related an example of a recurring bid (monthly) from Ft. Bragg. This particular contract is listed every month, and has been bid on by a company headquartered in Pennsylvania. This company in turn sub-contracted other companies to accomplish the mission – the money went to Pennsylvania. He did some research of firms locally and in NC and determined that there were in fact companies that could easily bid and get this contract which was worth \$250K. His primary purpose for tracking this was to document for illustration purposes to show businesses how to search and/or work the system. He also commented on 'Operation Match Force' a military business and employment web portal [www.matchforce.org](http://www.matchforce.org) wherein companies and individuals can both register (individuals listed there skills and companies listing their needs). It works similar to a dating service – match up people with jobs. This has been an effort in cooperation with the state, military installations, and Ft. Bragg contracting.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Commissary: SGM(R) Law stated that an issue was submitted to the Ft. Bragg Army Family Action Plan for consideration at the last session re: the need to better market the commissary to our young soldiers and families. It was also recommended that the Commissary Officer re-institute the Commissary Column in the Paraglide.

b. AAFES: MSG(R) Best stated that he could add nothing to Ms. Gordon's presentation.

## 9. Other Business:

a. RAD: Mr. Bell reported that the 2005 RAD will be held 16-17 September. He reported the AG was interested in improving/enhancing RAD activities. One possibility is to establish some sort of public recognition for retirees from the various regions who go that extra mile for their fellow retirees. Possibility of presenting awards at the RAD dinner. Plans are to extend RAD to a week of activities such as specials at the PX and Commissary, reduced fees at MWR activities etc. culmination with the usual RAD dinner on Friday evening and the Saturday activities at Womack AMC. The AG and RSO met with the Director of Fayetteville VA Hospital to coordinate dissemination of information at RAD. He solicited for ideas that might help enhance RAD. The question came up as to why the Council members were not recognized during RAD (at the dinner). SGM(R) Law answered that the reason was that he had not been given the opportunity to review the MC's script. When asked to do so he was told that everything was taken care of.

b. Miscellaneous: Mr. Bell reported on the open season for SBP effective 1 Oct 05. The retiree must live a minimum of two years after signing up. Those who desire to enter during the open season must pay a five year premium at sign-up time plus possibility of added interest. Retirees will receive a 2.7% COLA increase which applies to retiree pay, Social Security, VA rates and CRSC. He stated that there are still some problems with CRSC. Too many folks not applying. COL(R) Latella reported that CRSC differs from the VA Disability pay. They are two different programs; however, you can not get CRSC unless you have the VA disability Code. He explained the necessary steps that one should take in order to apply for CRSC. The percentages that are awarded for disability do not necessarily equate to the VA disability pay percentage. He encouraged those who might think they might be eligible for CRSC to get reevaluated by VA and apply for CRSC.

## 10. Regional Reports:

Region I – Western – No report

Region II – Northwest – COL(R) Doll welcomed the new co-chair 1SG(R) Ward. He reported that there were plans to continue to have activities in the area for retirees and other veterans.

Region III- Southern Piedmont - COL(R) Deal reported that the quarterly meetings were still well attended and they will continue to have guest speakers. He asked if there was anything new reference on receipt of the Ft. Bragg Paraglide. SGM(R) Law answered that apparently there were some changes in whom and how the mail-outs of the Paraglide were being handled by the PAO. He stated that the RSO would pick-up the mission and mail the Paraglide to the outlying Regional Co-Chairs.

Region IV – TRIAD – No report

Region V – Cape Fear – SSG(R) Crawford reported that the VA web site has a wealth of information.

Region VI – Triangle – COL(R) Rawley reported that the USO at the Raleigh-Durham Airport was operating extremely well. Community support in both money and kind has been great. During November it had some 1600 military and family members come through. It is located in Terminal A above the ticket office of Trans.

Region VII – Southeastern – SGM(R) Foronda reported that the only questions he has received have those dealing with CRSC payments.

Region VIII – Coastal Plains – LTC(R) Parsons reported that LTC(R) Griffith, former co-chair, is being treated with a reappearance of cancer. He stated the Congressman Jones's office has told them that a new VA facility has been approved for Greenville, a mini hospital, it's projected for 2008. Con Jones also asked that the Council be informed as to why he voted against the Intelligence Bill - the committee had removed the 'death penalty' for terrorist. He indicated that he could not support that.

11. Comments from Other Council Members: CW4(R) Flanders reported that Cumberland County celebrated Veterans' Day with a week of activities throughout the county and at the VA Medical Center.

NCARC

29 Dec 2004

SUBJECT: Minutes of the North Carolina Army Retiree Council Meeting 11 Dec 2004

12. Co-Chairmen Comments: COL(R) Latella stated that he covered what he wanted in his earlier comments. SGM(R) Law commented on the two issues that were being submitted to FORSCOM for the CSA Army Retiree Council. (Copies attached). He also informed the Council that BG(R) Joe Nagel, former NCARC Co-Chair and current President of the Braxton-Bragg Chapter AUSA might be making contact with Regional Co-Chairs to establish points of contact for the purpose of establishing sub-chapters for the local AUSA. He also reminded the Council that those retirees who opted not to take Medicare when originally eligible will be given the opportunity to enter into the program without a penalty cost.

Next Meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held 19 March 2005.

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1130 hours.

*Lawrence L. Law*

Lawrence L. Law  
Sergeant Major, USA Retired  
Co-Chairman

*Donald Latella*

Donald Latella  
Colonel, USA Retired  
Co-Chairman

DISTRIBUTION:

1 ea Council Member  
Cdr, XVIII Abn Corps & Ft. Bragg  
Cdr, USA FORSCOM  
HQDA, DAPE-RSO

## **North Carolina Military Business Center**

**Mission:** To leverage the presence of the military in North Carolina to promote economic development and quality of life for all

### **Goals:**

- Increase military business for existing North Carolina companies
- Integrate transitioning military personnel and family members into the workforce
- Support recruitment and development of defense-related businesses

### **Status:**

- Funded by the State of North Carolina for FY04-05 (\$1.8 million)
- Establishing statewide headquarters at Fayetteville Technical Community College
- Will provide services through Community College Small Business Centers (58)
- Target date: established January 4, 2005; providing services Spring 2005

### **Components:**

- Business Assistance Office (BAO): mission is to rapidly increase the number of existing NC companies engaged in military business, to expand and retain revenues from military business, and to create primary jobs
- [www.matchforce.org](http://www.matchforce.org): existing internet-based system that matches NC companies with military business opportunities, and transitioning military personnel and family members with employment opportunities with NC companies
- Gap Analysis: a multi-function study (updated in the future by the MBC) that identifies defense-related business recruitment opportunities, based on the future needs of the military, existing business capacity, and availability of supporting resources in NC

### **Associated Projects:**

- Military Business Park (prototype): a business facility located adjacent to Fort Bragg that will accommodate current and future defense contractors
- Security and Defense Technology Center (prototype): a defense-related, technology innovation center that will support the development of businesses to meet the future technology requirements of Army and Air Force units on Fort Bragg, Pope AFB and worldwide



**CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY RETIREE COUNCIL ISSUE**

**MACOM: FORSCOM**

**INSTALLATION: FORT BRAGG, NC**

**SUBJECT: Combined Federal Campaign**

**DISCUSSION:** The enthusiastic fiscal support of Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) by the active duty soldiers and their family members stationed at CONUS installations has been noteworthy. A significant amount of the dollars donated each year through the CFC have been designated to go to local charitable service and support **local organizations** such as the local Chapter of the Red Cross, MCA, Installation Youth Activities, local Rape Crisis etc.). Units from several CONUS installation are presently deployed to location OCONUS, and several others are scheduled to deploy in the near future. The greatest majority of the family members of these deployed troops remain at the installation or in the surrounding areas, and continue to receive support from activities and agencies in these areas. Directives have been issued by Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the proponent activity that oversees CFC, that when units are deployed OCONUS they will not be permitted to designate contributions to local agencies since there locale will placed them under the jurisdiction of the Overseas CFC which lists only global service agencies. These deployed units are not permanent party to the overseas command, they are serving in a temporary time-basis status similar to the Air Force's rotation system and the Navy home port system. Prohibiting soldiers from participating in their home station CFC results in a drastic financial short fall for the agencies and activities that are supporting these very same soldiers' family members. This council recommends that steps be taken to ensure that OPM allows deployed units to participate in the CFC from their home base(s).

**APPROVER BY INSTALLATION RETIREE COUNCIL CO-CHAIRMEN**

Lawrence L. Law  
Sergeant Major, USA Retired  
Co-Chairman, NCARC

Donald Latella  
Colonel, USA Retired  
Co-Chairman, NCARC

**CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY RETIREE COUNCIL ISSUE**

**MACOM: FORSCOM**

**INSTALLATION: Fort Bragg, NC**

**SUBJECT: High Three Dollars on LES**

**DISCUSSIONS:** The time is rapidly approaching when the High-Three retirement pay plan comes into effect. Those soldier who are subject to this plan are a distinct disadvantage when compared to their predecessors who need only know their final base pay in order to compute the dollar amount of retired pay. Soldiers in the High-Three category are not as fortunate. In order for the soldier's supervisor, commander, retention NCO, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, Command Sergeant Major etc. to properly counsel, the soldier would have to have in hand copies of the last 36 LESs in order to hopefully arrive at a ball park figure representing the High-Three dollar amount on which to base computations. This council recommends that DEFAS initiate a computer program wherein starting at the beginning of a soldier's 14<sup>th</sup> year of active duty the LES reflect the current High-Three dollar average as of the end of that particular pay period. This information will enable the soldier, as well as others responsible in guiding and counseling the soldier, to determine some exactness in percentage and dollar amount for retirement purposes. The percentage (40% or 50%) depending on soldier's option to participate in the 15 year lump sum \$30,000 bonus or not, as well as the dollar amount if retirement were at hand at that particular time. This issue was initially raised in 2000/01 The previous Deputy RSO had initiated dialogue with DEFAS, however, due to circumstances of 9/11 things got lost in the shuffle. Several senior noncommissioned officers in positions such as Corps CSM, Division CSM etc. have been have been contacted and endorse this issue.

**APPROVED BY INSTALLATION RETIREE COUNCIL CO-CHAIRMEN**

Lawrence L. Law  
Sergeant Major, USA Retired  
Co-Chairman, NCARC

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